

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the claims

Claims 1-8 (cancel)

Claim 9 (Withdrawn) Use according to any one of the claims 1 to 8 in the manufacture of a composition that includes a viral vector bearing a polynucleotide sequence that expresses and codes for CT-1.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn) Use according to claim 9 characterized in that the viral vector is an adenovirus.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) A method of cultivating hepatocytes, characterized in that CT-1 or a viral vector bearing a polynucleotide sequence that expresses and codes for CT-1 is added to the medium.

Claim 12 (new) A method for stimulating hepatic regeneration comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) or a polynucleotide that encodes CT-1 to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 13 (new) The method according to claim 12 for stimulating hepatic regeneration following surgical hepatectomy comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) or a polynucleotide that encodes CT-1 to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 14 (new) A method for preventing damage to a liver comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) or a polynucleotide that encodes CT-1 to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 15 (new) The method according to claim 12 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from a chronic liver disease.

Claim 16 (new) The method according to claim 12 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from acute, subacute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 17 (new). The method according to claim 12 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from hepatic cirrhosis.

Claim 18 (new) The method according to claim 12 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from a liver transplant.

Claim 19 (new) A method for treating intrahepatic tumors comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) or a polynucleotide that encodes CT-1 to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 20 (new) A method for stimulating hepatic regeneration comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 21 (new) The method according to claim 20 for stimulating hepatic regeneration following surgical hepatectomy comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 22 (new) A method for preventing damage to a liver comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) that encodes CT-1 to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 23 (new) The method according to claim 20 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from a chronic liver disease.

Claim 24 (new) The method according to claim 20 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from acute, subacute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 25 (new). The method according to claim 20 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from hepatic cirrhosis.

Claim 26 (new) The method according to claim 20 wherein the need for hepatic regeneration results from a liver transplant.

Claim 27 (new) A method for treating intrahepatic tumors comprising administration of an effective amount of cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1) or a polynucleotide that encodes CT-1 to a patient in need thereof.